

Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for September 15, 2009

Attendance: Mildred Horton, Judy Baxendale, Mary Black, Jen Davies, John Madsen
Mary Ann Kirk (staff).

1. Minutes for August 18, 2009 were approved as written.
2. Staff report
 - . Mary Ann reviewed Steve James Assembly assignments and passed out flyers. Jen Davies will take Longview and Mary Ann will take Twin Peaks. All schools are now covered. Mary Ann asked for tour guide volunteers for a photography exhibit during October. Judy, Mildred, and Jen volunteered to help call literary winners for the Haunted Trails. We will ask Sue Ranglack and the Hylands to judge them again.
 - . We are restoring a stained glass window from the 1894 opera house. This was donated by someone who saved it when the historic building was demolished in the 1950s. It will be displayed at the museum but hopefully will be moved to a new performing arts center.
 - . A company will be hired to create an email system for our newsletters and performance mailing lists. We need to make sure Jen Davies is on the newsletter mailing list.
 - . Murray High instrumental teacher has leukemia and Murray Symphony director has pancreatic cancer. Both groups are trying to get good substitutes until they return. John Madsen said the district needs to pay enough to acquire someone good or the whole instrumental program will be hurt.
 - . Several RDT dance projects were possible ideas for 2010-2011. They have grants. Jen Davies and Mary Ann will meet with Leesa Lloyd in January to see if we would like to work with them and what we would prefer.
 - . We received a \$48,000 zap grant which was slightly less than last year but most groups received 12% cuts. This will help us maintain our funding for the music specialists in the schools. We are hoping that an NEA grant will help us reduce this amount next year.
 - . Mildred will try to talk with Doug and the Mayors office about a capital projects priority list for state grants to help us get some state funding for the performing arts center.
3. A financial report for the 2009 Arts in the Park series was reviewed. Our gate attendance was slightly higher and our season ticket total was slightly less than last year. Our expense was cut by \$20,000 while our revenue was maintained. We only had a \$3000 difference which was covered by our grants. A significantly reduced marketing budget and the fact that we didn't produce a musical in August accounted for most of the expense reduction. Mary Ann focused marketing funds on the musicals. Our other concerts were poorly attended which was probably due to lack of advertising. We won't repeat the Polynesia and storytelling concerts next year.
4. Art in the Park schedule for 2010 was reviewed. Murray Arts Council is doing Cinderella. We are applying for royalty rights to Annie. If we don't get that, we will request rights to Seven Brides. Board members agreed to give the director a choice between West Side Story or Man of La Mancha for the other show. Board members liked staff recommendations for Salsa Espresso, Paul Burnside Band and a variety show or oldies concert on July 2. Salsa Espresso will hopefully work with the percussion and guitar ensembles at Murray High.
5. Our next meeting on October 20 will feature a report about an operational plan for the performing arts center. We will invite other art groups and the foundation.